FIELD METHODS IN RESEARCH – COMPREHENSIVE REVIEWER

Lessons 1–7 | Structured Study Guide with Tables, Diagrams (text form), Examples, and Exam Cheat Sheet

Lesson 1: Nature of Research and Philosophical Worldviews

Research is a systematic and organized process of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting information to answer questions or solve problems.

Field Methods in Psychology involve collecting data in real-world settings using surveys, interviews, observations, and focus group discussions.

Philosophical worldviews influence how researchers see reality and how they conduct research.

Worldview	Core Idea	Research Focus	Example
Positivism	Reality is objective and measurable	Scientific measurement and testing	Experiment measuring stress levels of students
Constructivism	Reality is socially constructed	Understanding experiences and meanings	Interviewing students about their learning experiences
Transformative	Research should promote social change	Focus on marginalized populations	Research on gender inequality
Pragmatism	Focus on practical solutions	Uses multiple methods	Combining survey data and interviews

Memory Trick: PCTP → Positivism, Constructivism, Transformative, Pragmatism

Lesson 2: Research Approaches

Qualitative Research explores meanings, experiences, and perspectives of participants.

Quantitative Research focuses on measurable variables and statistical analysis.

Mixed Methods Research combines both qualitative and quantitative approaches to provide deeper understanding.

Feature	Qualitative Research	Quantitative Research
Reality	Multiple realities	Single objective reality
Sample Size	Small sample	Large sample
Data Type	Words and narratives	Numbers and statistics
Reasoning	Inductive	Deductive
Goal	Develop theory	Test theory

Mnemonic: WNQ → Words (Qualitative), Numbers (Quantitative)

Lesson 3: Review of Literature

A literature review examines existing studies related to a research topic.

It helps identify research gaps, build theoretical background, and avoid duplicating previous work.

Source of Literature	Description
Libraries	Books, journals, and academic publications
Electronic Databases	Online journals and citation indexes
Government Publications	Statistical reports and official documents
Experts	Researchers or professionals with specialized knowledge

Lesson 4: The Use of Theory in Research

Theory provides explanation and meaning to research findings.

It helps researchers understand relationships between variables.

Role of Theory	Explanation
Explains Phenomena	Helps explain why events occur
Guides Research	Helps formulate research questions
Predicts Outcomes	Helps generate hypotheses
Interprets Results	Gives meaning to data findings

Analogy: Theory is like a map guiding researchers through the study.

Lesson 5: Writing Strategies and Ethics

Research ethics refers to moral principles guiding research practices.

Ethical research protects participants and ensures credibility of research.

Ethical Principle	Meaning
Informed Consent	Participants voluntarily agree to participate
Confidentiality	Participant identities are protected
Integrity	Honest reporting of results
Avoid Harm	Participants should not be harmed physically or psychologically

Lesson 6: Writing the Introduction

The introduction sets the foundation for the research paper.

It explains the topic, background, research gap, and purpose.

Introduction Component	Explanation
Hook	Captures reader interest
Background	Provides context and definitions
Research Gap	Identifies missing knowledge
Purpose Statement	States the goal of the research

Lesson 7: Purpose Statement

A purpose statement explains the intent and goal of the research study.

It clearly states what the study aims to accomplish.

Component	Explanation
Intent	Action verb describing study purpose
Focus	Main research topic
Participants	Who is studied
Setting	Where research occurs
Variables/Phenomenon	Key concept being investigated

ONE-PAGE EXAM CHEAT SHEET

Research = systematic investigation to answer questions.

Three approaches: Qualitative (words), Quantitative (numbers), Mixed Methods (both).

Four worldviews: Positivism, Constructivism, Transformative, Pragmatism.

Literature review identifies research gaps.

Theory explains relationships and guides research.

Ethics ensures responsible and moral research.

Introduction structure: Hook → Background → Gap → Purpose.

Purpose statement: intent + topic + participants + setting + variables.